



## Federal Emergency Management Agency

### Matthew Furman: Director, Office of Public Affairs

Matthew Furman was appointed director of the Office of Public Affairs by FEMA Director James Lee Witt in February 2000. In this position, Mr. Furman is responsible for developing communications strategy for the agency, maintaining, training and deploying disaster public affairs officers, handling national media relations and acting as chief spokesman for the agency. The Recovery Channel, FEMA Radio Network, the Recovery Times, the agency's WEB site and FEMA's internal newsletter are also under his oversight.

Prior to joining FEMA, Mr. Furman served as deputy commissioner and director of public affairs for the New York City Office of Emergency Management, where he directed public affairs policy and responded to city-wide emergencies. He also handled public affairs for the city's Y2K preparedness activities and was responsible for the design and management of the city's state-of-the-art media center.

Mr. Furman also served as special counsel, spokesperson and family affairs officer for the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB.) While at the NTSB, Mr. Furman responded to 15 major accidents, including the TWA crash that killed 230 people and the Korean Airlines crash in Guam. He was one of two original family affairs officers, responsible for briefing victims' families about accident investigations.

Previously, Mr. Furman worked as an attorney at law, a stringer for the *New York Times* and a licensed private investigator.

A native of New York, Mr. Furman holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in history and political science from the State University of New York at Binghamton, and a law degree from American University.

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